

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 8 and 14 have been amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for performing inter-vehicle distance control on a vehicle comprising:

determining an actual value of a distance variable describing a distance between the vehicle and a vehicle traveling in front;

determining a plurality of weighting values for the distance variable as a function of input variables describing a driving situation of the vehicle and/or an ambient situation of the vehicle and/or a driving behavior of a driver and determining a set point value for the distance variable as a function of the input variables;

~~actuating a brake and/or driving device of~~ decreasing a velocity of the vehicle when the determined actual value of the distance variable is less than the determined set point value of the distance variable and increasing the velocity of the vehicle when the determined actual value of the distance variable is greater than the determined set point value of the distance variable so that the determined actual value of the distance variable assumes the determined set point value of the distance variable; and

multiplying the weighting values by one another to determine the set point value of the distance variable.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein to determine the set point value of the distance variable a geometric average of the weighting values is formed.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein to determine the set point value of the distance variable the multiplied weighting values are restricted to a predefined value range.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the value range is

defined by predefining an upper and a lower limiting value for the multiplied weighting values, the limiting values being predefined as a function of driving state variables describing the driving state of the vehicle.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the multiplied weighting values for determining the set point value of the distance variable are multiplied by a predefined reference value for the distance variable, the reference value being predefined as a function of driving state variables describing the driving state of the vehicle.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 11 further comprising issuing a driver warning to the driver of the vehicle if the determined actual value of the distance variable drops below the set point value of the distance variable given by the lower limiting value of the multiplied weighting values.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A device for performing inter-distance control on a vehicle comprising:

an evaluation unit determining an actual value of a distance variable describing a distance between the vehicle and a vehicle traveling in front, the evaluation unit determining a plurality of weighting values for the distance variable as a function of input variables describing a driving situation of the vehicle and/or an ambient situation of the vehicle and/or a driving behavior of a driver, the evaluation unit in turn determining as a function of the weighting values a set point value for the distance variable, the evaluation unit ~~actuating a brake and/or driving device of~~ decreasing a velocity of the vehicle when the determined actual value of the distance variable is less than the determined set point value of the distance variable and increasing the velocity of the vehicle when the determined actual value of the distance variable is greater than the determined set point value of the distance variable so that the determined actual value of the distance variable assumes the determined set point value of the distance variable, and to determine the set point value of the distance variable the evaluation unit multiplies the weighting values by one another.